Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 034011 TOSEC 020013 ORIGIN NEA-04

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 034011 TOSEC 020013

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 2773 ACTION SECSTATE JERUSALEM TEL AVIV 15 FEB 77

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 2773

TEL AVIV FOR ABINGTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EG, PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: NEW ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATION IN

GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) CAIRO 2748; (B) CAIRO 2712

1. ROSS CRAIG, MANAGER AMOCO/EGYPT HAS JUST CALLED TO SAY THAT INFORMATION HE GAVE US ON ISRAELI DEADLINE FOR REMOVAL OF RIG 511 ANCHORS WAS IN ERROR. WHILE INFORMATION REACHED HIM AT 0900 FEBRUARY 15, ULTIMATUM WAS IN FACT GIVEN AT 0730 SAME MORNING. HENCE DEADLINE SET BY ISRAELI PATROL BOAT 502 EXPIRES AT 0730 FEBRUARY 16. PATROL BOAT CAPTAIN, WHEN HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVERSED DECISION ABOUT PLACEMENT OF ANCHORS AND SET DEADLINE FOR RETRIEVAL OF THEM, SAID THAT HE WAS DOING SO ON ORDERS OF HIGHER ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDERS. CRAIG SAID THAT AMOCO EMPLOYEES WHO SPOKE WITH PATROL BOAT CAPTAIN TOLD LATTER THAT COMPANY WAS RESORTING TO DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO SETTLE MATTER.

2. CRAIG HAS EXPRESSED TO US HIS CONCERN FOR LIVES AND

SAFETY OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT ABOARD THE RIG. IF ISRAELIS SHOULD TRY TO FORCE ANCHORS TO BE RAISED, WEATHER CONDITIONS PREVAILING COULD ENDANGER RIG AND THOSE ON BOARD. HE HAS SET UP COMMAND CENTER IN HIS CAIRO OFFICE TO MONITOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE RIG THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: TOSEC, HARASSMENT, OFFSHORE DRILLING

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, US, IS, AMOCO
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